

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-01 AKA-10 10-13 100-00 AID-05 TPSE-ED VO-05
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O R 232139Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC 3021
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

BUENOS AIRES 4000

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, GREF, ICEM, AR
SUBJECT: STATUS OF ICEM IN OPTION PROGRAM: KOZAK TRAVEL

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 3020, (B) GENEVA 7920, (C) BUENOS AIRES 3727

1. DURING AMPLI DISCUSSION ON RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM BETWEEN INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL COL. SAN ROMAN AND S'EMBASSIES TODAY MAY 23, THE SUBJECT OF ICEM AS A PRE-SCREENING AGENCY WAS STRONGLY ENDORSED BY EMBASSIES. COL. SAN ROMAN, HOWEVER, WHO HAD BEEN APPRISED OF WIDE-SPREAD INTEREST IN ICEM PARTICIPATION BEFORE (SEE REFTTEL C), MADE A PREPARED RESPONSE THAT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY DID NOT SEE A ROLE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IN THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM.

2. THE TWO POINTS HE MADE TO SUPPORT GOA'S POSITION WERE THAT 1) THE NUMBER OF CASES PRESENTED TO ANY INDIVIDUAL EMBASSY WOULD NOT BE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE TO REQUIRE ICEM PARTICIPATION; AND 2) THAT INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES CAN BE MANIPULATED BY "OUTSIDE FACTORS," LIMITING THEIR OBJECTIVITY AND EFFECTIVENESS. FOR THESE REASONS, THE GOA PREFERS TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH THE EMBASSIES INVOLVED AND WILL PROVIDE ~~THE~~ NECESSARY ASSISTANCE. WHEN WE POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF CERTIFICATE REQUESTS WAS INDEED SIGNIFICANT, SAN ROMAN SUGGESTED EMBASSIES MAKE A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE "SERIOUSNESS" WITH WHICH FAMILIES MAKE THE REQUEST. HE ESTIMATED THAT UP TO ONE HALF OF THE REQUESTS WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME INEFFECTIVE BECAUSE OF SECOND THOUGHTS BY THE DETAINEE TO ACTUALLY LEAVE ARGENTINA, LACK OF MONEY TO BECOME REESTABLISHED ABROAD, OR OTHER PERSONAL REASONS.

3. UPON CLOSE QUESTIONING, SAN ROMAN AGREED TO MEET WITH ICEM'S REPRESENTATIVE (NAME--EMBASSY MENTIONED NO NAME) BUT ASKED THAT THE MEETING BE POSTPONED AT LEAST TO THE FOLLOWING WEEK (MAY 25-JUNE 3). ALTHOUGH THE ENTIRE GROUP OF EMBASSIES EMPHASIZED THEIR INTEREST IN ICEM PARTICIPATION, WE CANNOT KNOW WHETHER TODAY'S JOINT APPROACH WILL CAUSE GOA TO CHANGE ITS NOW VERY APPARENT RELUCANCE TO AUTHORIZE ICEM TO ACT HERE. SAN ROMAN HAS AGREED TO HEAR ICEM'S CASE AND THIS EMBASSY CAN MAKE APPOINTMENT SHOULD KOZAK DECIDE TO COME TO PURSUE THE OPPORTUNITY (AS WE ASSUME HE WILL).

4. FOLLOWING TODAY'S MEETING, REFTTEL E WAS RECEIVED, INDICATING SOME ICEM FEAR OF GETTING FURTHER INVOLVED WITH PROGRAM. ALSO LOCAL ICEM DIRECTOR ROMAGNOLI CALLED, SUGGESTING THAT SINCE JOINT KOZAK-ROMAGNOLI-EMBASSY MEETING CANNOT BE ARRANGED FOR EVENING MAY-24, ROMAGNOLI INTENDS TO ADVISE KOZAK TO POSTPONE HIS TRIP TO BA UNTIL EARLY JUNE WHEN ROMAGNOLI WILL RETURN FROM OVERSEAS

TRIP. EMBASSY DID NOT DISCUSS RESULTS OF TODAY'S MEETING WITH ROMAGNOLI AND PREFERS TO KEEP OUT OF ICEM INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE CAN ONLY ADVISE THAT ALL THAT REMAINS AT THIS POINT IS SAN ROMAN'S WILLINGNESS TO SEE ICEM REPRESENTATIVE NEXT WEEK (OR LATER, SHOULD ICEM PREFER). ALTHOUGH THE CHANCES LOOK SLIM AT THIS POINT, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT THAT KOZAK MAKE HIS APPROACH IN ORDER TO HAVE THE ICEM ISSUE SETTLED DEFINITELY ONE WAY OR ANOTHER AS WE MOVE ON TO PROCEED RIGHT OF OPTION CASES.

5. ACTION REQUEST: SANTIAGO:
PLEASE PASS PERTINENT INFORMATION TO KOZAK.
CASTRO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Graffeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade toDate ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

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